

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 304275
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 304275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 21.

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
DECEMBER 21, 1977.

Q: IN YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION TAKEN IN THE DECEMBER
1ST BRIEFING, WHICH I JUST GOT, YOU SAID THAT WE ARE ON
RECORD AS SAYING, QUOTE:

"WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY
AND INTEGRITY. MOREOVER, THE U.S. DEPLORES THE LOSS OF

LIFE AND PROPERTY AND ENTEBBE AND EXTENDS ITS SYMPATHY TO
THOSE FAMILIES WHO WERE BEREAVED."

AND MY QUESTION IS: DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE DENOUNCED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FOR RESCUING THE
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HOSTAGES?

A: NO.

Q: WELL, THEN, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF LIFE AND
PROPERTY AT ENTEBBE? WAS IT AN INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OR

WHAT?

A: I WILL HAVE TO CONFESS TO YOU AGAIN, BECAUSE THAT OCCURRED PRIOR TO MY COMING HERE - THAT MY RESEARCH IS NOT VERY ADEQUATE ON PRECISE FORMULATIONS THAT WERE USED EITHER IN THE UN AT THE TIME OF TH: DISCUSSION OF THAT OR BY OUR GOVERNMENT.

Q: YES. IF IT'S POSSIBLE IF WE COULD GET SOME CLARIFICATION ON THIS -- BECAUSE I DON'T SEE HOW YOU COULD EXPLORE THE LOSS OF LIFE AND AT THE SAME TIME NOT CONDEMN THE ISRAELIS -- BECAUSE THERE WERE 10 AMERICANS WHO WERE IN THAT GROUP OF HOSTAGES, ONE OF WHOM WAS GEORGE GARFUNKEL OF BROOKLYN, WHO SAID, 'THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN.' END OF QUOTE.

IF YOU COULD FOLLOW UP ON THAT I'D BE VERY GRATEFUL --

A: YES. (PRESS OFFICE PROVIDED REPORTER WITH TEXT OF AMBASSADOR SCRANTON'S STATEMENT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 12)

Q: YOUR PAKISTAN DESK CONFIRMED THIS MORNING THAT A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN AND THAT ONE JOURNALIST DIED IN DETENTION.
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TION OF A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE WITH REGARD TO WHICH THERE HAS BEEN NO INQUEST AT ALL.

Q: GIVEN YOUR VERY STRONG DENUNCIATION OF THE VORSTER GOVERNMENTS TAKING SUCH ACTIONS, DID I SOMEHOW MISS YOUR CONDEMNATION OF PAKISTAN?

A: I HAD SOMETHING ON THAT, WHICH I NOTICE IS NO LONGER HERE; ON THE QUESTION OF THE JOURNALIST. I WILL SEE IF I CAN GET THAT FOR YOU.
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